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## **Bridge Draft EIS public hearing draws little interest**

By KDN Staff

After years of lively public debate on the proposed bridge to Gravina, only about 25 people turned out for Wednesday's public hearing on the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Of those, only five chose to testify.

Wednesday was the first of two three-hour public hearings scheduled on the Gravina Access Project Draft EIS, which details nine possible bridge options, including the state's preferred alternative — two high bridges linking Revillagigedo, Pennock and Gravina islands.

The first bridge, linking Revilla and Pennock, would be seven-tenths of a mile long and 250 feet high with a minimum clearance of 200 feet. The second, between Pennock and Gravina, would be just one-half mile long and 160 feet high with a minimum clearance of 120 feet. In addition to building two bridges, the state is proposing to construct eight miles of road, part on Revilla Island to the first bridge, and part from the bridge on Gravina to the airport.

The \$244 million bridge alternative is the most expensive bridge option considered. It is expected to create a total of 470 construction jobs and 310 indirect jobs over the course of the project, according to the Draft EIS.

Of the five people who spoke at the public hearing, only one was opposed to the state's preferred alternative.

For more detail on this story, see Deanna Garrison's article in the Sept. 18, 2003, edition of the Ketchikan Daily News.